

Waste: a worldwide problem

As said in the title, waste, has become a worldwide problem.

Malta, as a small island with many people, is one of the many countries which is overrun by waste. In Malta each person generates around 600kg of waste per year. 88% of the waste in Malta is sent to landfills, 8% is recycled and 4% is turned into compost, as quoted from "Newsbook".

In the picture on the right, we can see disposable, paper containers lying around in a public garden in Mosta, a village in central Malta.

This garden is found behind a school with not less than 800 students. Not only is it an eyesore for the students, teachers and visitors, but many people take their dogs for walks in this garden, so it is also a hazard to the dogs because the waste is not good for the dogs if eaten.



It must be stated, that while some people throw their rubbish all over the place and ignore bins, others do not. This can still create a problem because unless these bins are emptied by refuse employees on a regular basis, they start to overflow. The wind and stray dogs will easily help to scatter things all around.

This garden often sees volunteers who clean up but again unless garbage bags are disposed off they still create an eyesore as can be seen in the adjacent picture. If we keep doing this the bins will overflow and the previous problem would turn into the current one.



Waste is not only a problem on land, but also one at sea. When we go swimming it is very likely that we find plastic. When we go to the beach, we most probably take or buy something that has plastic. It is quite easy for this plastic to find its way into the ocean. This is not only a problem because of the economy, but it is mainly a problem for sea creatures. Fish can easily get caught up in plastic and unfortunately die. Sometimes, turtles think that the plastic bags are jellyfish. They end up swallowing the plastic and suffocate. Without realising it we are killing the ocean and all that comes with it.

Seeing as to how it is a worldwide problem, Malta is not the only country with the problem, in fact according to "Eurostat" while Malta is fifth in the list of countries with the most waste in Europe, Denmark is in the lead as each person there is worth 759Kg of waste. In last place we have Romania where every person is worth 254Kg each, which is still a lot.

Simply talking about waste does not help the environment. We have to take matters into our own hands and help the environment ourselves. How can we do this? It can only improve if everyone takes responsibility. Responsibility by disposing of waste properly. We can help by simply making sure that we throw our rubbish into bins and checking that the bins are being disposed of properly. It would be even better if we reduce waste. This can be done through reuse and recycling. As Orison Swett Marden once said, " We make the world we live in and shape our own environment."

By Yasmine Spiteri Swain